

REMARKS

This Amendment, submitted in response to the Office Action dated January 5, 2005, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 3, 7, 9, 11, 12, 16, and 19 are pending in the present application. Claims 2, 3, 7, 9, 11, 12, 16 and 19 have been allowed. Claim 18 has been canceled. Applicant submits that the application is now in a condition for allowance.

I. Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to claims 2, 7 and 19 for informalities. Applicant has corrected the informalities as suggested by the Examiner and as set forth above.

II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 18 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Newman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,420,441) in view of Farrokhnia et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,231,231). Claims 18 has been canceled from the present application. Consequently, the rejection of claim 18 is now moot.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

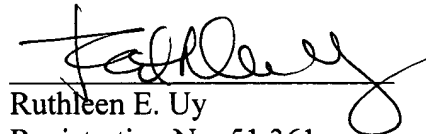
AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Appln. No.: 09/801,773

Attorney Docket No.: Q61192

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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